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Statement Regarding CPR Recommendation SO10 (Explore Open Source Alternatives)

California Performance Review Recommendation SO10, "Explore Open Source Alternatives," has been interpreted by some as recommending or establishing a preference for open source solutions. I am issuing this statement to clarify existing state practice and policy on this subject.

State information technology standards and policies are considered and adopted through a collaborative process that at present may include interrelated actions by, among others, the Information Technology Council, the Department of Finance and my office. State procurement policies are ultimately determined by the Department of General Services. With respect to information technology procurement policies, we have again engaged in a collaborative decision-making process.

CPR Recommendation SO10, if interpreted as establishing a preference for open source solutions, does *not* reflect state policy. There is no policy giving a preference in project design or in procurement for open source or proprietary solutions. The architecture of individual information technology projects is determined initially by the project owner, and the analysis supporting those decisions typically appears in a Feasibility Study Report (FSR). Our standards require consideration of reasonable alternatives in an FSR so that we can ensure the State receives a solution that is well aligned with our business needs.

The goal of an information technology procurement is simply to get "best value" for the State. Although there are certain statutory preferences that may affect procurements, there is no preference for open source solutions or for any other software architectures.

Questions about this statement may be directed to my office.